

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
Eight Hundred and Thirty-sixth Meeting
July 8, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.
(Virtual Meeting)

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Kenia Allen	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Marcus Allsup	Department of Defense (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency)
Meghan Barrett	Department of Homeland Security (Chair) (Voting)
Wendi-Starr Brown	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs)
Sandy Day	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Thad Ellerbe	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Census Bureau)
Brenda-Anne C. Forrest	Government Publishing Office
Andrew Griffin	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Chris Hammond	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Susan Lyon	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) (Vice Chair)
Patrick Mahoney	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
Alesha Perdomo	U.S. Postal Service
Veronica Ranieri	Library of Congress
Ron Salz	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
Mike Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Jeremy Smith	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management)
Timothy St. Onge	Library of Congress
Michael Tischler	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Tara Wallace	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)

Ex-Officio

Glenn Guempel, Acting Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names / Domestic Names Committee

Trent Palmer, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names / Foreign Names Committee

Staff

Julie-Ann Danfora, U.S. Geological Survey
Maria McCormick, U.S. Geological Survey
Matthew O'Donnell, U.S. Geological Survey
Sergio Rodriguez, U.S. Geological Survey
Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests

Josefa Baker, U.S. Geological Survey
Christopher Hiemstra, U.S. Forest Service

Deb Nordeen, National Park Service
 Foreign Names Committee staff
 National Geographic Society staff
 Observers

1. Opening

The chair opened Meeting 836 of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at 9:30 a.m. and requested a roll call of the members. The chair announced that she would be voting.

The meeting was held virtually, due to ongoing concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The vice chair invited the members to review the reports that were distributed previously and to email any questions or comments to the staff. (Please note the reports appended hereto may have been edited for length and/or clarity.)

2. Minutes of Meeting 835

The minutes of Meeting 835, held June 10, 2021, were approved as submitted.

3. Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman (Wallace)

See attached report.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary (Palmer and Guempel)

There was no written report. Guempel reported that the BGN Executive Committee met on July 1 and continued discussions regarding revisions to the BGN's bylaws; the member appointment letters; and potential impacts to the *Principles, Policies, and Procedures: Domestic Geographic Names* because of the increased interest in addressing names considered offensive or derogatory.

Palmer noted that the Foreign Names Committee (FNC) will meet virtually on September 14. He will have a full FNC report to share at the upcoming Full BGN quarterly meeting on July 20.

3.3 Special Committee on Communications (Lyon)

There was no written report. Lyon noted that she is hoping to schedule a meeting of the committee in the next month. She invited members to join the SCC and reminded everyone to submit reports to Forrest for the BGN Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report to the Secretary of the Interior.

3.4 Executive Secretary (Guempel)

There was no written report. Guempel thanked everyone for helping to make these virtual meetings productive.

There has been considerable effort toward the upcoming migration of GNIS off the Oracle platform, which has required the redesign of the online and hardcopy proposal forms, locating servers for BGN documents, and an increased scrutiny of BGN records to better protect Personally Identifiable Information. Runyon added that the migration will also impact the ability to post online the DNC's meeting minutes and review lists and that all map links within the review lists, as well as the online proposal form links, i.e. anything with "apex" in the URL, would cease to function. Guempel expressed his appreciation to McCormick for all her hard work in support of the transition.

3.5 Staff (Runyon)

See attached report. Runyon reminded the members that the DNC's monthly meeting normally scheduled for August 12 has been canceled.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

There was no written report. McCormick reported that the best estimate of the final GNIS cutover from Oracle to PostgreSQL is at the end of July. It is anticipated that the GNIS webpages will be unavailable for some time during the transition and while testing is ongoing. Text files of all GNIS data will be created in advance of the cutover and will be available for download.

3.7 Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication (Kanalley)

See attached report. The Special Committee will meet following this meeting.

4. Docket

Please refer to the attached Docket for a description of each proposal. For new names approved at this meeting, the newly assigned GNIS Feature ID (FID) has been noted following the name.

I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties

Change **Negro Creek** (FID 459447) to **Berlin Creek**, Iowa (Review List 443)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 21 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Lost Coon Lake** (FID 1796095) to **Lost Loon Lake**, Montana (Review List 443)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 21 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Boulder Glacier or **Creasons Glacier**, Alaska (Review List 439) (FID 2830097)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name **Boulder Glacier**.

Vote: 21 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

III. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties

Whitman Creek, Mississippi (Review List 442) (FID 2830099)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 21 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

DeHorty Flat, Montana (Review List 443) (FID 2830101)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 21 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

IV. Revised Decisions - none

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Balls Waterhole, Illinois (Review List 441) (FID 2830098)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
3 abstentions

Runyon asked the DNC to consider whether it is appropriate for the BGN to retain purview over the names of small reservoirs located entirely on private property. In the 1990s, the DNC discussed the issue, and for a short time, decided that such names should not be under BGN purview before reversing the decision. Purview over all reservoir names was retained because of how difficult it can be to determine which small waterbodies are natural lakes vs. artificial reservoirs. If a name is proposed to the BGN to be made official for Federal use, it must conform to BGN principles and policies.

Quarry Hill, Maine (Review List 443) (FID 2830100)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 21 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Courage, South Carolina (Review List 443)

The committee reviewed the case details. Perdomo explained the requirements set forth by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to approve a new last line (city and State designations) for mailing addresses; specifically, the USPS only considers a new last line if the name is recognized by the BGN. Populated places and civil (Census) features may be used by the USPS, but locales may not. Requests for new last lines must be received from a representative of the community or larger jurisdiction, not simply a single individual or company. Each request is evaluated on its merits. (This proposal to name a new locale as Courage was submitted by the Director for Chester County Economic Development and is separate from the request to the USPS to establish the name Courage as a new mailing address.)

A motion was made to approve the name but was withdrawn after discussion about the nature of the proposal, the type of feature, and how it would be recorded in GNIS.

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the Commercial Names Policy. Some members suggested that “Courage” is not a commercial or product name and that it was vetted with due diligence by the county government and the South Carolina State Names Authority.

Members requested clarification regarding the BGN’s purview over GNIS features classified as “locale,” noting that administrative features (including locales) are to be removed from GNIS in the coming weeks. (This decision was made in 2019 in response to a directive issued in 2014 by the USGS National Geospatial Program to cease maintenance (adding and editing) of all features in GNIS classified as “administrative,” i.e. cultural or man-made entities.) In the future, the “locale” feature class will comprise only archeological ruins, which are already blocked from public view. Several members asked if the BGN would entertain proposals to name locales if they can no longer be added to/changed in GNIS. Others noted that the PPP states that the DNC’s purview extends only to the names of natural features, along with reservoirs, channels, canals, and unincorporated places, but if specifically asked to do so, would render a decision on any feature. It was agreed that the issue of BGN’s purview over non-maintained feature types should be a topic for discussion at the next DNC meeting.

One member left the meeting. The Chair called for a vote.

Vote: 9 in favor
9 against
2 abstentions

By tradition, a tie vote means an automatic deferral, so the proposal will be presented once again on the September docket.

5. Other Business

There was no other business.

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting is scheduled to be held virtually on September 9, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.

(signed)

Glenn Guempel, Executive Secretary [Acting]
Domestic Names Committee

APPROVED
(signed) Meghan Barrett

Meghan Barrett, Chair
Domestic Names Committee

BGN Chair Report – July 8, 2021
Tara Wallace

1. The 406th meeting of the Foreign Names Committee met on June 8, 2021 at 1:00 pm. The next meeting will be held on September 14, 2021.
2. The next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features is July 16 at 1:00 pm.
3. The next Full Board meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2021.
 - a. Ms. Tanielle Gaither will be presenting on the Advisory Committee for the Extra-Terrestrial at 2:30 pm.
4. The Executive Committee met on July 1st with a full agenda.
5. I would like to extend thanks to everyone that has attended the Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication.
6. I am soliciting members to become active with the Communications Committee.
7. BGN/PCGN Meeting – plans for an informal virtual meeting on September 21, 2021.

Thanks everyone for their continued effort and support of the Domestic Names Committee meetings. Stay safe and healthy.

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**BGN/Domestic Names Committee Meeting 836**  
**Staff Report - July 8, 2021**

**Meetings and Presentations**

Staff participated in the July 1 meeting of the BGN's Executive Meeting. Topics included a review of the BGN's bylaws, BGN Transparency, and the matter of the BGN's role in establishing names for Federal use.

Staff participated in two meetings of the BGN's Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication: one immediately following DNC Meeting 835 (June 10), at which the focus was on possible attendance and presentations at future Tribal conferences, and a second on June 24, to address ongoing concerns expressed by staff regarding issues of interest to Tribal governments and communities.

The BGN's Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (ACAN) met on June 21, during which it approved several dozen new names submitted by the United Kingdom Antarctic Place-Names Committee. ACAN also voted to amend the proposed name ICESat Glacier to ICESat Ice Stream to be consistent with other recently approved names in the area. Another proposal on ACAN's docket, to change Negro Hill to Black Hill, was recommended for approval. ACAN's recommendations will be presented to the Full Board at Quarterly Meeting 282 on July 20.

Scott Borg, chairman of ACAN, retired from Federal service (National Science Foundation) at the end of May, but has offered to continue to serve as chair and to be involved in the BGN's Antarctic naming activities.

### **Items of Current Interest**

Staff continues to receive inquiries from the general public and the media regarding the process and procedures for naming and renaming features, including changes to offensive names. A number of new proposals have been received.

Quarterly Review List 444, comprising 51 new names and name changes, was completed on July 6 and posted at the [BGN website](#). Notifications are being prepared for State Names Authorities, Tribal Governments and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, and other interested parties.

As reported last month, the BGN received its first request from a Tribal government to make official two names for features located entirely within its reservation. The names Toto Creek and Toto's Meadow, submitted by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, have been added to GNIS and are now official for Federal use. The Tribe has extended its appreciation to the BGN for its recognition of these names.

Runyon and Kanalley spoke on June 22 with a management analyst with the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil & Plant Science Division regarding the use in Federal products of names that could be considered offensive. He reported that NRCS recently assessed its collection of 20,000-plus soil series names for the occurrence of “potentially offensive and derogatory names” and wished to learn more about the BGN’s renaming policies and procedures.

The proposal to change the name of Negro Creek in Clinton County, Iowa (Review List 437) has been withdrawn by the proponent; she now endorses the counterproposal from the township government to change the name to Berlin Creek (Review List 443).

The proponent of the name change from Brazell Pond to Betty Pond, for a small reservoir in Massachusetts, continues to contact the BGN staff regarding his intention to appeal the decision. The USGS Congressional Liaison Office forwarded a letter of support for the change from Senator Edward Markey. At the request of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the entry for Brazell Pond Dam in GNIS has been changed to [Betty Pond Dam](#).

The proposal to change the name of Big Squaw Mountain in Oregon to Ford Mountain (Review List 443) has been withdrawn; the proponent now endorses the counterproposal for Dumont Butte. The original proposal, to change the name to Sacagawea Peak (Review List 437), is still active, but the proponent will be notified of the new proposal, which was submitted by the Cultural Resources Program Manager & THPO of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians.

### **State Names Authority and State Partner Activities**

Staff attended the June 22 meeting of the Colorado Geographic Names Advisory Board. The CGNAB continues to review the first two of the pending proposals and held further discussions regarding its procedures and need for additional outreach.



Staff participated in the July 6 virtual meeting of the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names. One proposal, a name change for a seamount, was recommended for approval and will be forwarded to the BGN's Advisory Committee on Undersea Features.

Staff has held informal meetings with representatives of the Connecticut and Montana State Names Authorities (SNAs), both of which have been inactive for some time. Both assured the staff that they have experienced resource shortages but hope to get back on track soon.

A Native Lands Partnership Intern with the Wilderness Society has contacted a number of SNAs to verify their contact information. The request refers to a "how-to guide for renaming offensive geographic features" that the Society is preparing. A number of SNAs followed up with BGN staff regarding expectations regarding their increased involvement in the name change effort.

A staffer for Representative Jahana Hayes (Connecticut) contacted the BGN staff to advise them that after reviewing the Reconciliation in Places Names Act (H.R. 8455, 116<sup>th</sup> Congress), he would be asking the Connecticut Geographic Names Authority to provide him with "information on questionable names within the federal recognized places in Connecticut."

### **News and Media Coverage**

Several news articles appeared following the DNC's approval last month of proposals to change 16 "Negro" names in Texas. There were also follow up articles noting that many offensive names still remain, e.g. [Hundreds of Places in Texas Still Bear Offensive Names—Especially Against Native Americans – Texas Monthly](#).

On June 22, the *American Geophysical Union* [reported](#) that it had sent "a letter of endorsement to leadership in the House of Representatives and the Senate for the Reconciliation in Place Names Act."

The [Sacramento Bee](#) reported on ongoing efforts to change the name of [Negro Bar](#) in Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. The BGN has one pending proposal, to change the name to Freedom Bar (Review List 435) but California State Parks continues to solicit local opinion and will consider whether to propose a different name.

The Johnson County (Iowa) Board of Supervisors recently voted to rededicate the name of the county so it no longer commemorates Richard Mentor Johnson, an owner of enslaved persons who from 1837 to 1841 served as Vice President under Martin Van Buren. The name now honors Lulu Merle Johnson, an Iowa native who became the first Black woman to earn a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa.

### **Misc. Staff Activities**

The USGS staff continues to meet with Esri developers to redesign the BGN's online proposal form and to develop a more robust proposal tracking system.

Work is ongoing to prepare for the migration of GNIS from Oracle to PostGreSQL, which is expected to happen in the coming weeks. The change will impact all URLs that use the APEX platform, including map links in the case briefs and review lists; the application to upload minutes, review lists, etc., the online proposal forms (domestic and Antarctica), and other related applications. The staff will evaluate how best to inform users and will soon offer the hardcopy (PDF) proposal forms in place of the online version; this will be a short-term solution until the aforementioned Esri form is ready for use.

The removal of administrative names from the active GNIS search will impact features classified as “locale.” Many such features have been the subject of past BGN decisions.

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**U.S. Board on Geographic Names/Domestic Names Committee  
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication Report  
July 8, 2021  
Betsy Kanalley**

1. The BGN/DNC Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication met on June 10 and again on June 24, 2021.
2. The June 10 meeting followed the DNC meeting and the focus of this meeting was to review the compilation of Tribal-related meetings and conferences compiled by BGN staff as potential venues for BGN outreach. Special Committee members selected their top 3-5 conferences to focus on either attending and/or presenting at in 2021-2022. The top selections were, The National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers Conference (NATHPO); The National Congress of the American Indian (NCAI); National Tribal GIS Support Conference. THE BGN is also planning a presentation in conjunction with the FS at the Association of Tribal Libraries Archives and Museums (ATLAM), Nov. 29 – Dec. 3, 2021, and that was also included in the top ranking.
3. The June 24 special committee meeting was focused on addressing BGN Staff concerns regarding the need to establish consistent practices in initiating communication with Tribal governments. More discussion on this topic is needed in order to develop any proposed new procedures and/or changes to existing procedures. Any significant process changes proposed by the special committee will be forwarded to the DNC for discussion/approval.
4. The next meeting of the Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication will take place on Thursday, July 8, 2021, immediately following the Domestic Names Committee Meeting.

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE  
DOCKET  
July 2021**

Unless otherwise specified, in accordance with the BGN's Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names, a link to the Quarterly Review List containing each proposal was sent to all federally recognized Tribes, and to Tribal Historic Preservation Officers for which an email address was available. The Tribal authorities were given 60 days to comment on any proposal. The Otoe-Missouria Tribal Historic Preservation Office responded to the Review List notice, stating it has "no objection to the proposed name changes on Review List 443." If no response(s) were received regarding a proposal, it is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

**I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested Parties**

Change Negro Creek (FID 459447) to Berlin Creek, Iowa  
(Review List 443)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=41.930282&p\\_longi=-90.667575&fid=459447](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=41.930282&p_longi=-90.667575&fid=459447)

|                       |                                     | Support | Oppose | No opinion | No objection | No response |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|--------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Clinton County Board of Supervisors | X       |        |            |              |             |
| State Names Authority | Iowa                                | X       |        |            |              |             |
| Federal Agency        | N/A                                 |         |        |            |              |             |
| Tribes                |                                     |         |        |            |              | X           |
|                       | Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska   | X       |        |            |              |             |

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Creek, an eight-mile-long tributary of Silver Creek in Clinton County, to Berlin Creek. It was submitted by a Grant Township Trustee in response to a previous proposal to change the name to Wolverine Creek (Review List 437), a name that referenced the mascot of a former school district in the area. The proponent of the name Wolverine Creek has since withdrawn their proposal in favor of the name Berlin Creek.

The name Berlin Creek would recognize the former name of Grant Township. According to the Clinton County website, "Preceding the outbreak of World War I, in a burst of patriotism, the name of Berlin township was changed to Grant township." Other online sources state that the name was changed in 1918 or 1920. One article, published in *The Clinton Advertiser* on October 11, 1918, is often referenced: "The people of Berlin township have changed the name of 'Berlin Cemetery' to 'Pine Hill Cemetery,' and will change the name of the township as soon as a suitable name can be decided upon."

When asked to comment on the proposal for Wolverine Creek, the township trustee responded, “Our community became aware that outside forces have taken upon themselves to rename a creek in our township. The current name is negro creek [sic], and in today’s cancel culture, this name has been deemed inappropriate. After careful consideration we have come up with a name that is more in tune with the rich history of the immigrants who developed this agricultural area. That name is Berlin. Grant township was originally named Berlin but was changed in the early 1900s. We feel that people within a community should be responsible for naming rights, not some outside social justice warrior. So, a name with meaning to community and not a comic book character as someone has proposed would be proper.” [The initial proposal for Wolverine Creek does not reference the Marvel character.] The trustee also informed the County Supervisors that “the derogatory term the creek was once named was changed in the 80s, so it should be case closed.”

The name Negro Creek has appeared on USGS maps since 1980; earlier smaller-scale maps did not label the stream. Histories of Clinton County published in 1897 and 1911 recorded the name in the pejorative form. From the 1897 source, “In an early day, a negro had settled on a small stream tributary to Silver Creek, which has since been called ‘N[] Creek.’ He remained but a short time and his name even could not be obtained.” The County Supervisors reported that a local historic preservation group conducted additional research but was unable to find any details on this individual.

The County Supervisors reported that a resident from north of Grand Mound commented that they were opposed to the original proposal “because it is part of the history of the County” and because the request “came from outside of the jurisdiction.” It is not known if they were asked to comment on the counterproposal.

The Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska’s Tribal Historic Preservation Officer wrote: “Between the two [Wolverine Creek and Berlin Creek], we agree with the proponents [that] Berlin has more of a historic connection than wolverine, since there were never wolverines in that area, and there was once a Berlin township there.”

Change **Lost Coon Lake** (FID 1796095) to **Lost Loon Lake**, Montana  
(Review List 443)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=48.3961305&p\\_longi=-114.3596749&fid=1796095](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=48.3961305&p_longi=-114.3596749&fid=1796095)

|                       |                                        | Support | Oppose | No opinion | No objection | No response |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|---------|--------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Local government      | City of Whitefish*                     | X       |        |            |              |             |
|                       | Flathead County Board of Commissioners | X       |        |            |              |             |
| State Names Authority | Montana                                |         |        |            |              | X           |
| Federal Agency        | N/A                                    |         |        |            |              |             |
| Tribes                |                                        |         |        |            |              | X           |

\* *proponent*

This proposal is to change the name of Lost Coon Lake, a 60-acre lake located partly in the City of Whitefish in Flathead County, to Lost Loon Lake. The lake is entirely on private property. The proponent, the Whitefish City Attorney, reports: “Lost Coon Lake was originally called ‘N[] Lake.’ The name allegedly became controversial in the mid-20th century when Washington bureaus began to refuse ice contracts with that name on it. At some point, the Lake began to be referred to as Lost Coon Lake. Given that ‘coon’ is a well-recognized racial slur, locals and visitors alike consider the name offensive. Loons returned to Lost Coon Lake after Whitefish Lake Golf Club, which owns property abutting the Lake, purchased and installed a nesting platform to encourage their establishment. Lost Coon Lake was formerly a casual feeding area for loons. The City of Whitefish, on behalf of owners of property abutting Lost Coon Lake, pursuant to section 85-2-133, MCA, filed a petition to change its name with the Eleventh Judicial District Court. The District Court granted the City’s petition on November 2, 2020.”

Any name change for a “watercourse or natural source of water supply, including natural streams, dry coulees, springs, lakes, rivers, or creeks” requires a petition to a district court under Montana law.

The proposal included two supporting documents with the history of the lake’s name. The first, a February 20, 1964 *Whitefish Pilot* article titled “N[] Lake name changed” stated: “N[] Lake south of Whitefish is to be designated on forest service and geological survey maps in the near future as Lodgepole Pond, Don Jensen announced this week. Jensen, who operates a lumber yard in Whitefish, has been active for the past year in getting the name of the lake changed. ‘Actually,’ Jensen observed, ‘The lake had no official name, since it has been unnamed on official maps until now.’ Jensen said he had polled the property owners and had come up with a majority in favor of the name change.”

The second source, *Stumptown to Ski Town: The Story of Whitefish, Montana*, 2003, stated: “N[] Lake was named several years later [than an undated account of an 1890 journey to Whitefish]. It is said that a Negro woman named Mrs. Randals operated a rooming house for lumberjacks near the lake which took its name from this fact. Some claim, however, that Mrs. Randals was actually Spanish rather than Negro . . . it is still known as N[] Lake. There N[] Lake is [*sic*] formally called ‘Lodgepole Lake’ in 1972.”

On April 15, 1984, *The Kalispel Daily Inter Lake* reported, in an account of interesting regional place names, that “[t]he only thing lost at Lost Coon Lake, however, was a name, which a publicity-conscious subdivision developer changed from the original N[] Lake.” This fact has not been independently confirmed, and there is no definitive recorded reason why the name Lost Coon Lake came to be used locally.

No records could be found of any BGN proposal, inquiry, or action on the name of the lake in the 1960s or 1970s. The name Lost Coon Lake was entered into GNIS in Phase II of data compilation from a 1997 map cited as simply “dTG Maps. Flathead Valley Edition.” The variant name Lost Loon Lake was also entered with the same citation, but staff found no independent evidence that the name Lost Loon Lake dates back that far.

The aforementioned city petition included signatures of support from residents around the lake, some of whom live on a road named “Lost Coon Trail.”

The Montana Geographic Names Advisor (GNA) office within the State Library has been inactive since 2017 when their budget was cut and they lost staff to process any proposals. The GNA expects to be operating again in fall 2021, but until then is asking that the BGN proceed with a vote on any pending proposals in Montana.

## II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

### Boulder Glacier or Creasons Glacier, Alaska

(Review List 439)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=62.875964&p\\_longi=-152.115922](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=62.875964&p_longi=-152.115922)

#### Boulder Glacier:

|                       |                                             | Support | Oppose | No opinion | No objection | No response |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------|--------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Denali Borough Assembly*                    | X       |        |            |              |             |
| State Names Authority | Alaska                                      | X       |        |            |              |             |
| Federal Agency        | N/A                                         |         |        |            |              |             |
| Tribes                |                                             |         |        |            |              | X           |
| Other                 | Alaska Division of Mining, Land, and Water* |         |        |            |              | X           |
|                       | McGrath Native Village*                     |         |        |            |              | X           |
|                       | Native Village of Cantwell*                 |         |        |            |              | X           |
|                       | Nikolai Village*                            |         |        |            |              | X           |
|                       | Tanana Chiefs Conference*                   |         |        |            |              | X           |
|                       | Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*                 |         |        |            |              | X           |
|                       | Anchorage Daily News*                       |         |        |            |              | X           |
|                       | Mat-Su Frontiersman*                        |         |        |            |              | X           |
|                       | Alaska Native Language Center*              |         |        |            |              | X           |

\* contacted by SNA

#### Creasons Glacier:

|                       |                          | Support | Oppose | No opinion | No objection | No response |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------|--------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Denali Borough Assembly* |         | X      |            |              |             |
| State Names Authority | Alaska                   |         | X      |            |              |             |
| Federal Agency        | N/A                      |         |        |            |              |             |
| Tribes                |                          |         |        |            |              | X           |
| Other                 | See above*               |         |        |            |              | X           |

\* contacted by SNA

These two names are proposed for an unnamed 1,200-acre glacier in Denali Borough and in an area managed by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. The glacier is located above the headwaters of Boulder Creek and just outside Denali National Park.

The first proposal that was received, for Creasons Glacier, would commemorate James Franklin Creason (1940-2015), who owned the nearby Grandview Lodge and from which he operated an eco-tourism business. According to the proponent, a member of the Creason family, Mr. Creason would collect ice from this glacier to use in ice cream he served to guests.

Upon learning of the proposal, the chair of the Geographic Names Committee of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska noted that the glacier is already known locally as Boulder Glacier; this name was published in the *American Alpine Journal* in 2002; in *High Mountain Sports* in 2002; and in the MCA's monthly publication *The Scree* in 2010. He submitted a counterproposal to make official the name Boulder Glacier.

The proponent of the name Creasons Glacier was advised of the new proposal but declined to withdrawn his application.

The Alaska Historical Commission (AHC), which serves as the State Names Authority, voted to recommend disapproval of the name Creasons Glacier, because "the proposal did not demonstrate a significant contribution of the individual to the community or state, nor did it document local support . . . letters of support came only from friends and family." Citing existing usage and the Denali Borough Mayor's support for Boulder Glacier, the AHC voted to support that name.

GNIS lists 81 features in Alaska with "Boulder" in their names; none are glaciers, and the aforementioned Boulder Creek is the only one in Denali Borough.

### III. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties

#### Whitman Creek, Mississippi (Review List 442)

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=32.20674&p\\_longi=-88.94435](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=32.20674&p_longi=-88.94435)

Source: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=32.25537&p\\_longi=-88.93274](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=32.25537&p_longi=-88.93274)

|                  |                                    | Support | Oppose | No opinion | No objection | No response |
|------------------|------------------------------------|---------|--------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Local government | Jasper County Board of Supervisors |         |        |            |              | X           |
|                  | Newton County Board of Supervisors | X       |        |            |              |             |

|                       |             |   |  |  |  |   |
|-----------------------|-------------|---|--|--|--|---|
| State Names Authority | Mississippi | X |  |  |  |   |
| Federal Agency        | N/A         |   |  |  |  |   |
| Tribes                |             |   |  |  |  | X |

This proposal is to apply the new commemorative name Whitman Creek to a 4.1-mile-long unnamed tributary of Algood Creek. The stream originates in southeast Newton County and flows south to enter northeast Jasper County.

The name would commemorate the Whitman family, who lived and farmed in the area since the 1850s, specifically William Whitman (1817-1900) and his wife Harriett (1820-1900). The land is still owned by their descendants. The proponent, a great-great-grandson of William and Harriett, states, “The economic and historical impact of these early settlers is difficult to quantify but many of their descendants have become school teachers, factory workers, doctors, merchants, soldiers, farmers, as well as musicians and other trades. This early settler’s descendants, more than 100 years later, continue to build their lives and raise their families and hope that this heritage will continue for many more generations.” Several members of the Whitman family are buried in Whitman Cemetery, located a short distance from the former site of the family’s log cabin, and approximately 200 yards from the unnamed stream.

**DeHorty Flat**, Montana  
(Review List 443)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=45.35468&p\\_longi=-112.09376](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=45.35468&p_longi=-112.09376)

|                       |                                       | Support | Oppose | No opinion | No objection | No response |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|--------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Madison County Board of Commissioners | X       |        |            |              |             |
|                       | Town of Sheridan                      | X       |        |            |              |             |
| State Names Authority | Montana                               |         |        |            |              | X           |
| Federal Agency        | N/A                                   |         |        |            |              |             |
| Tribes                |                                       |         |        |            |              | X           |
| Other                 | DeHorty family descendant*            | X       |        |            |              |             |
|                       | Sheridan Town Council*                | X       |        |            |              |             |

\* contacted by proponent

The new name DeHorty Flat is proposed for an approximately 5-acre flat located east of Laurin in Madison County, and 8.6 miles outside the Town of Sheridan. The flat, which is located on the proponent’s property, is on a small ridge south of an unnamed summit and south of Mill Gulch Road.

The name is intended to commemorate William J. DeHorty (1843-1924) and Anna DeHorty (née Arbaugh) (1846-1920), who homesteaded and prospected in Section 33 west of the flat. Their land patent was granted in 1877. The original homestead buildings still stand and can be seen from the flat.



The proponent noted that he is not related to the DeHorty family. A descendant of Anna DeHorty's brother submitted support for the proposal.

The Montana Geographic Names Advisor (GNA) office within the State Library has been inactive since 2017 when their budget was cut and they lost staff to process any proposals. The GNA expects to be operating again in fall 2021, but until then is asking that the BGN proceed with a vote on any pending proposals in Montana.

#### IV. Revised Decisions - none

#### V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

##### **Balls Waterhole**, Illinois

(Review List 441)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=38.71091&p\\_longi=-89.501371](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=38.71091&p_longi=-89.501371)

|                       |                      | Support | Oppose | No opinion | No objection | No response |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------|--------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Clinton County Board |         |        |            |              | X           |
| State Names Authority | Illinois             | X       |        |            |              |             |
| Federal Agency        | N/A                  |         |        |            |              |             |
| Tribes                |                      |         |        |            |              | X           |

The new name Balls Waterhole is proposed for a two-acre reservoir in Saint Rose Township in Clinton County. When asked for the origin of the name, the proponent stated “Neighbors used to play wiffleball in front of the pig barns between work. Sometimes the balls would end up over the barn and in the manure pits. These were called the Ball Pits because once a ball got in there it was gone. Now that these manure pits are gone and turned into a lake we still wanted to reference the ball pits by naming it Balls Waterhole.” There appear to be no families with the name Ball in the area.

The Illinois Board on Geographic Names (IL BGN) raised the following concerns about the proposal: (1) “waterhole” should be spelled as “water hole”; (2) a “water hole” is defined as a body of water where animals may drink fresh water; and (3) the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may object to a body of water being named as a “water hole” when it was formed from former manure ponds. The IL BGN did not wish to provide a recommendation until the EPA commented. BGN staff asked the BGN if such outreach would be appropriate and was informed that no further staff inquiries were needed.

When informed about the IL BGN's concerns, the proponent responded “all of the manure was drained and then completely scraped out with backhoes and skid loaders prior to it being refilled with water. I know the owner plans to add fish to the lake as well.”

The IL BGN requested comment from the Illinois EPA (IL EPA) and reported that the agency “defines manure pits as livestock waste containment structures (LWCS) and has no specific

requirements. The Illinois Department of Agriculture does, but only for newer LWCS. The IL EPA reminded me there may be public health issues if the lake is used for human activities but that is to be resolved by the owner with the State and local public health departments. That said, the Illinois Board of Geographic Names approves the name: ‘Balls Waterhole’.”

GNIS does not list any nearby features with “Ball” in their names. There are several hundred features with the generic “Waterhole,” although none are in Illinois. Besides five in Florida, and one each in Georgia and Arkansas, all are lakes, springs, or reservoirs in the western part of the U.S.

**Quarry Hill**, Maine  
(Review List 443)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.961082&p\\_longi=-70.741864](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=43.961082&p_longi=-70.741864)

|                       |                                       | Support | Oppose | No opinion | No objection | No response |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|--------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Town of Denmark Board of Selectmen    | X       |        |            |              |             |
|                       | Oxford County Commissioners           | X       |        |            |              |             |
| State Names Authority | Maine                                 | X       |        |            |              |             |
| Federal Agency        | N/A                                   |         |        |            |              |             |
| Tribes                |                                       |         |        |            |              | X           |
| Other                 | Denmark Conservation Committee member | X*      |        |            |              |             |
|                       | Denmark Historical Society Curator    | X*      |        |            |              |             |

\* reported in proposal

The new name Quarry Hill is proposed for an unnamed 871-foot summit in the Town of Denmark in Oxford County. According to the proponent, who owns the majority of the summit, including its highest point, the name refers to a granite quarry that once operated on top of the hill. The quarry is visible in aerial imagery but not depicted on USGS topographic maps.

The summit was labeled as Peaked Hill on an 1858 Oxford County atlas. The proponent reports that this name is not in local use. A query of GNIS found no nearby features with similar names.

**Courage**, South Carolina

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=34.695121&p\\_longi=-80.886027](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=34.695121&p_longi=-80.886027)

|                       |                         | Support | Oppose | No opinion | No objection | No response |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------|--------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Chester County Council* | X       |        |            |              |             |
| State Names Authority | South Carolina          | X       |        |            |              |             |
| Federal Agency        | N/A                     |         |        |            |              |             |
| Tribes                |                         |         |        |            |              | X           |

\* Contacted by proponent

The new name Courage is proposed for a locale directly southeast of the Town of Fort Lawn in Chester County. The proposal was submitted by the Chester County Economic Development Director who reported, “The developer [of the property] is the grandson of the original founder of the company, which was started in 1933. After almost 90 years of only being located in [California], they have made the courageous decision to have a second development. The developer is a privately-held, family-owned company and this new development is a legacy to his children and took Courage.”

The name would apply to “a new unincorporated locale as designated by Chester County government via a resolution in support of a new development. It consists of 10 parcels totaling 594.6 acres.” The proponent confirmed that the feature will not include any residences and will be strictly a commercial facility.

In March 2021, the BGN received an inquiry from the office of Senator Lindsey Graham about the Federal naming process. The inquirer had asked the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) about the process to allow the use of “Courage, SC” as an alternate city and state address line for ZIP Code 29714, rather than the existing “Fort Lawn, SC.” The USPS responded that in order for a unique last line to be considered, “it must be an established municipality that is recognized by the [BGN]. . . . The requested last line of Courage, SC is not currently a US-BGN or SC-BGN recognized or established municipality and therefore cannot be added as a last line at this time. Honoring requests of this nature opens a dangerous precedent that could harm the needs and interests of the USPS for processing mail.”

A February 25, 2021 *The News & Reporter* [Chester County] online article reported that “A large West Coast wine manufacturer and bottler will be constructing a facility near Fort Lawn in Chester County . . . .” At the time, the name of the company constructing this facility had not yet been released.

In late June, the staffer for Senator Graham inquired about the status of the proposal, noting that “The company is planning to officially announce on Wednesday of this week (June 30). This company will be a great addition to SC”; see also [State Leaders Announce E. & J. Gallo Winery is Officially Coming to Chester Co. - CN2 News](#).

The USPS member on the BGN has confirmed that in order to be considered as an Acceptable Mailing name, the name must first be recognized by the BGN as “a municipality, civil, populated place, or city and not just as a Census Designated Place or geographic feature such as a Locale.” She noted that there are other factors that the agency will also consider when reviewing such a request.